



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes, Nov. 3, 2010

### OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting – Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 7:30 pm

Amended/Approved, Dec. 1, 2010

Present: Ann LeRoyer, Chair; David White; Joey Glushko; Patsy Kraemer; Elizabeth Karpati, Leslie Mayer

Absent: Lisa Decker, Jane Auger, Michele Hassler, Teresa DeBenedictis

- The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with one

addition and one minor revision.

- Elizabeth Island – Ann reported that the fundraising is moving along. She doesn't know what the total is but feels that they are within \$20,000 of their goal. Ann said that the donors seem to be coming from all over Arlington. There is a Deborah Henson-Conant concert this Saturday as an additional fundraiser. The hope is that the closing might happen in December.

The Land Trust will have a celebration for their annual meeting this year. The date will be announced and the event may be held at the Whittemore Robbins House.

- Mill Brook – Ann thinks it would be wise to schedule a separate

meeting for the Mill Brook project. Joey reported that there has been some positive sentiments expressed from the Brigham's developer vis a vis the pocket park near the High School. The developer has also expressed a willingness to replace damaged street lamps and benches in the area. The park itself is owned by the School Committee so they would have to give permission for any of this work to occur. The next Planning Board hearing on this project will be Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The committee tentatively scheduled December 9<sup>th</sup> for the Mill Brook meeting. It will be in the first floor conference room of Town Hall.

- Busa Farm Project – There was a public forum in Arlington

Town Hall last week for Lexington officials to receive input from Arlington citizens. The sentiment from the attendees was overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining it as open space and farming. Both Ann and David spoke at the forum, Ann speaking on behalf of the Open Space committee

- Cooke's Hollow – David reported that Dave Barry of the Planning Department, is sending comments back to the consultant. David sent some comments from the ConCom. David said that there have been negative comments from

neighbors about the proposed cemetery.

- Off Leash Dog Program – it is up and running. Leslie reported that there have been a few bumps in the road. There was some upset about the communication coming from the Rec Department. Leslie explained the process that was followed. She said that they have received some very positive comments from one area. They have received some concerns and have addressed them readily. The one problem area has been Robbins Farm Park. A memo was sent to the Brackett School parent newsletter to clarify the hours. They also ran two workshops for the community and a workshop for dog owners. They offered a workshop for children; however there was literally no response. Leslie said that they may try a different approach using a camp that is cosponsored by Recreation Department and the Board of Health and focuses on health and safety. Leslie also reported that they are exploring having dog park brochures go out with license renewal applications from the clerk's office. Leslie reported that there had been one ticket issued within the past few weeks.
- Summer Street Playground and Park – the playground is still in process. It is fenced in; however parents and children have been using it. It has not been released back to the town yet, pending a safety inspection. The playground has been designed to be handicapped accessible. There is still a punch list that is being tweaked. The other location offers a bocce court and a multigenerational exercise area.
- Great Meadows – there was a work day a week and a half ago – David reported that much brush was cleared away – about 40 people came to help.
- Spy Pond phragmites – there was a treatment done on the 13<sup>th</sup> of

October. Poison Ivy was also removed from Spy Pond Park. Leslie reported that approval has been received to use the material StayLok at the Linwood Circle path to the shore. This is a demo project and is being done free. Heimlich will be doing the work; and the Friends of Spy Pond have been very involved in developing this project.

- 10 Ann announced that there is a Vision 2020 reservoir meeting next week. Martine Gougault has a sketch for a habitat garden to be established at the Res. A private donation was received through the Land Trust for the plantings of this project. The planting will occur next spring. Ann suggested that the Garden Club might be asked to help on a planting day.
- 11 Leslie announced that they are trying to schedule a joint public meeting on the Thompson School project. The meeting would be with the Parks and Rec Commission, the ConCom, and the Thompson Building Committee. There is a tight deadline on this project to have “free and clear” land for the build. The project is an article on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 12 Thorndike Off Leash Recreation area – Leslie reported that there is a plan for a fenced in off leash area at Thorndike. A grant has been received from the Stanton Company for the work. There would have to be a 10% town match which is in the Recreation Department's budget. The Selectmen have to vote to accept the grant. Upon acceptance the project would move forward.

Leslie distributed a sketch of the proposed site.

- 13 Ann asked members of the committee to review the Open Space Plan in anticipation of updating it.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Minutes by Patsy Kraemer